

Minister Federov's comment, where he told American officials do not give us money through the IMF into the central bank without strings, because if you do that that money will end up, quote, in Swiss bank accounts. Why was it, why was it, that we continued, against the advice of their own foreign minister who was trying to make reforms, to continue to put money into the government there instead of as an alternative attempting through democracy building to put the funding into building up political parties in Russia, building up a Democratic culture in Russia, assisting those who were trying to reform the country, why did all of the support go directly through the heads of state that were controlling the system, including the privatization? The gentleman alluded to Viktor Chernomydin's role there and in the report the indication is from the Russia's Road to Corruption, the Speaker's Advisory Group on Russia, the indication is that one of the main beneficiaries out of the entire privatization scheme was Chernomydin who ended up holding a large percentage of the oil and gas interests in Russia through so-called privatization, how could the administration allow this to occur without instead removing the resources from the government and putting the resources towards the forces of reform?

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. The gentleman knows full well that before Boris Yeltsin would leave office he made sure that his successor, who he hand picked, President Putin, would give him and his family amnesty. So that when Putin took over for Yeltsin, he immediately signed the first series of decrees, presidential decrees, that gave lifetime amnesty for Boris Yeltsin and his family because two of his daughters were involved in much of this corruption.

To answer the gentleman's question, the reason why that amnesty was given was because the Russian people know full well that Yeltsin was taking care of his friends. He was taking care of those around him. He was the one who hand picked the bankers, the oligarchs where he was shuffling the money through. So the people that got wealthy were those close friends of Boris who kept him in power. Now this administration should have had the integrity to say to Yeltsin, look, we want democracy and free markets to succeed. We are not here to take care of your friends. But because they were so enamored with this personal friendship and relationship, they ignored the reality of what was occurring. That is why the Russian people in the end said we have no respect for America because you do not care about Russia's people; you care about your friends. You care about Boris Yeltsin and his family. You care about Yeltsin's friends and cronies and you care about Chernomydin and his friends and his family.

What we said for the past 5 years in going over to Russia, to our govern-

ment, is why do we not put the money out into the regions where the regional governors are making reforms? Let us reward them. Let us help them build new institutions, new communities. This administration wanted everything to go through Yeltsin and central Moscow because they wanted Yeltsin to be the strong man. They did not want the regions doing good things on their own because they would not be as loyal to Yeltsin. So we in fact helped cause the problem in Russia that focused everything in Moscow, through Yeltsin and Chernomydin and their friends, and now we find out that AL GORE even had secret dealings and agreements with Viktor Chernomydin that jeopardized the security of the U.S. and most specifically, and this is the key point, the first threatened nation to what Russia gave Iran is not the U.S.; it is Israel. The people of Israel now tonight can thank AL GORE for a secret deal that he evidently worked out with Chernomydin that allowed technical supplies and equipment, components and military hardware and submarines to go to Iran, which will directly threaten Israel's security.

Now AL GORE can talk a good game but the facts are, that is where the allowance was to send this technology, and the number one enemy of Iran is Israel. That is an absolute travesty. That is an absolute disgrace because, as the gentleman pointed out, Iran now has the Shahab 3 and Shahab 4 missile; they are now building a Shahab 5. Iran now has the ability to hit Israel directly and with this agreement that Chernomydin and AL GORE work out privately, Vice President AL GORE in my opinion helped Iran develop that technology that now directly threatens the safety of the people of Israel.

Mr. ROYCE. There was one last question I wanted to ask, and that had to do with the issue of privatization. I think for us as confusing as the comments of Foreign Minister Federov, who says he warned the administration not to give this money to the central bank without strings attached, not to turn it over to the government in power without a method of auditing it and making certain that it went for the purposes to which it was intended, even more confusing are what we are hearing now about the privatization schemes in Russia and how the beneficiaries of that did not turn out to be the Russian people but instead certain oligarchs, how can it be that this administration that was involved in giving assistance in helping through the IMF and the World Bank and helping with financial assistance, how could it be the case that we could end up with so much in assets turned over instead to a very small group, cadre of people?

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. That is amazing. I do not know how. In fact, my colleague was with me when we met with Skuratov, who was the prosecutor general in Russia who is the equivalent of Janet Reno who told us he evidence of hundreds of insider peo-

ple around Yeltsin who were involved in insider trading with GKO bonds, who made tons of money off of the economic problems of Russia. I do not know how this could occur. It is outrageous, but the fact is that we now have to live with this.

I am outraged at this most recent story that my colleague brought up tonight, and I would urge our colleagues to take some kind of aggressive bipartisan action to hold this Vice President accountable for what he did. We have to stand up for what is right, and in my opinion what the Vice President did is not just wrong, it is unconstitutional and this Congress has a responsibility to make a statement on that before we leave this year, and I would say that should happen sometime this week.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SNYDER (at the request of Mr. Gephardt) for today and October 30 on account of a family medical emergency.

Mrs. FOWLER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Member (at the request of Ms. ESHOO) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. COBURN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HAYWORTH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOEKSTRA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHAFFER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. STENHOLM, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TURNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HILL of Montana, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker: